

stinger

SPORTS INFORMATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Trent Tilbury, P.R. Director

The Concordia Stingers play host to the defending national champion McGill Redmen in the 20th Annual Shaughnessy Cup. The cup is named after the late Frank Shaughnessy, a former coach at McGill (17 seasons) and Loyola (now Concordia). Shaughnessy was an outstanding football and baseball player for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. He played major league baseball before his football coaching days and was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 1983. Shaughnessy passed away in 1969 leaving his mark on College football in both Canada and the U.S.A. In 1919 Shaughnessy introduced linebackers and the huddle to college football. He was also responsible for the advent of the forward pass in 1931. As a coach he demanded a lot from his players but gave his soul to his teams.

The Stingers have an overall record of 4 wins and 9 losses in Shaughnessy Cup play. Concordia won in 1986 while the Redmen took the 1987 contest 31-20.

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Two key players in this game will be Redmen All-Canadian running back Michael Soles and Stinger quarterback Ron Aboud. Soles led McGill to the National Championship last season. He averaged 7.4 yards per carry in 1987. Last week he rushed for 119 yards against the Carleton Ravens in McGill's home opener. The Redmen won the game 45-8 as Gerry Ifill scored four touchdowns in the first half. Quarterback Bryan Fuller completed 7 out of 13 passes for 155 yards and 1 T.D.

One player to watch for Concordia is quarterback Ron Aboud. Aboud took O-QIFC "Rookie of the Year" honors in 1987. He finished second in league passing statistics while leading the nation in yards per carry average (8.2). Aboud may be the best all-round quarterback in the country and will electrify fans with his multi-dimensional talents. Aboud had a fine opening day against Bishops completing 18 out of 29 passes for 217 yards and 2 touchdowns. He also rushed for 67 yards on 7 carries. The Stingers came within seconds of defeating the third ranked Bishop's Gaiters in their season opener. Time ran out on Concordia as they had the ball on the Gaiter's 7 yard line with second and goal. Aboud's prime receiver in the game was Mirco Buth. The veteran hauled down 6 passes for 100 yards and 1 T.D. Outstanding second year player Patrick Yoshly made 6 catches for 48 yards and 1 T.D. Impressive newcomer Mike Noble had 4 receptions for 52 yards. J.F. Heroux was the leading rusher for Concordia with 73 yards on 13 carries

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The Stingers will field one of the biggest offensive lines in the country this season. This veteran laden unit is led by potential 1989 C.F.L. first-round draft choice Richard McCrory. McCrory is joined by fellow Vanier graduates Patrick Aboud and brothers Paul and Bryan Vajda. Jacques Moreau rounds out Ron Aboud's set of body guards.

The Stinger's defense will be led by tri-captain linebackers Martin Ferdais and Gilles David. Hard hitting defensive back Stephane Chapados leads an experienced secondary. Concordia finally has depth in the defensive backfield with the addition of Ed Tuggle and Doug Savage from the Western Junior Football League.

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These same two teams will meet in the Shrine Bowl October 1. With such a short season (7 games), every O-QIFC game will be like playoff football. Look for this conference to be the toughest in Canada this season.